

3724



Docket No. PPC-668

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*V. Doyle*  
*#6/Election*  
*12/15/00*

Applicants : Raymond J. Hull et al.

Serial No. : 09/343,759

Art Unit: 3724

Filed : June 30, 1999

Examiner: S. Pryor

For : CONTINUOUS METHOD OF PROVIDING INDIVIDUAL SHEETS  
FROM A CONTINUOUS WEB

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed  
to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

December 7, 2000

(Date)

Joel A. Rothfus

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

*[Signature]*  
(Signature)

December 7, 2000

(Date of Signature)

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 7,  
2000, please consider the following remarks.

The Office has required restriction to one of the following  
groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 1-7 and 21-23, drawn to a method with steps of forming lines of weakness in a web, classified in class 225, subclass 2; and

Group II: Claims 8-20, drawn to a method with steps of providing a knife and a knife abutting means, classified in class 83, subclass 13.

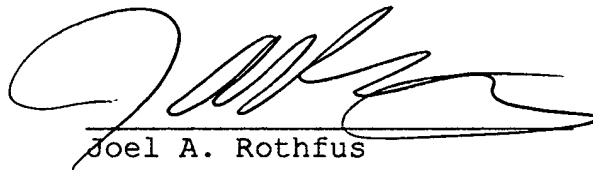
The Office Action indicates that Groups I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination and states that the subcombinations are distinct if they are shown to be separately usable. It indicates that the invention of Group I does not require the knife structure of Group II, and the invention of Group II does not require the step of forming lines of weakness of Group I. Applicants hereby elect Group I, with traverse, and respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement.

Applicants submit that the claims in the groups are related, and complete examination cannot be made of either group of claims without searching and considering the art in the other group's classification. Further Applicants note that claim 4 "comprises passing the web through a nip between a knife and knife abutting means" and that claim 8 provides a force sufficient "to separate the individual sheet from the web at the line of weakness".

Therefore, Applicants submit that it would be more efficient to search and examine both claim groupings together. That being the case, Applicants submit that it would be more burdensome upon them to have to prosecute two separate applications for the identified claims than it would be for the Patent Office to examine the two groups together. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the foregoing presents a full and complete response to the Office Action. Applicants look forward to an early notice of allowance for this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel A. Rothfus', is written over a horizontal line.

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December 7, 2000